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Application Number	09/579,630
Filing Date	05/26/2000
First Named Inventor	Robert McKinnon, Jr.
Art Unit	3781
Examiner Name	Eloshway, Niki M.
Total Number of Pages in This Submission: 3	Attorney Docket Number: 5925.36003

ENCLOSURES *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
  - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☐ Amendment/Reply
  - ☐ After Final
  - ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
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- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
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Remarks

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Decker, Jones, McMackin, McClane, Hall & Bates		
Signature			
Printed name	Geoffrey A. Mantooth		
Date	September 6, 2007	Reg. No.	32,042

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Docket No. 5925.36003

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application Of	:	
Robert McKinnon, Jr.	:	Examiner: Eloshway, Niki
Serial No. 09/579,630	:	Group Art Unit: 3781
Filing Date: May 26, 2000	:	
"METER BOX LID"	:	

REPLY BRIEF TO EXAMINER'S ANSWER

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in reply to the Examiner's Answer mailed July 9, 2007.

On page 8, lines 4-7 of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner makes a new argument. The new argument is in the context of the rejection of claims 59-75, among other claims, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hauffe. The Examiner states that Hauffe meets the limitation that the plastic in the lid is compressed. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on **SEPTEMBER 6, 2007.**

Geoffrey A. Mantooth, Reg. No. 32,042

Compressed plastic is plastic that is pressed by a mold. Hauffe does not teach compressed plastic. Instead Hauffe teaches injected plastic. In fact, Hauffe teaches injected foamable plastic.

One of the advantages of compressed plastic is that bubbles in the plastic are driven out, thus creating a lid capable of withstanding a high load, such as 8000 pounds. With foamable plastic, by its very makeup, the plastic has bubbles therein. Thus, Hauffe does not teach compressed plastic and in fact actually teaches away from compressed plastic.

Furthermore, compressed plastic is created by compression molding. Compression molding involves placing preheated plastic into an open mold cavity. The mold is closed with a plug member and pressure is applied to the plug member to force the plastic into all of the mold compartments. The plastic is compressed inside of the mold during the molding process. During this compression, bubbles are driven out of the plastic. Pressure is maintained until the plastic cures.

Contrast this with injection molding. In injection molding, molten plastic is injected at high pressure into a mold. The mold forms a cavity of fixed volume. Any gas entrained in the plastic injected into the mold remains in the mold. This is because, although the plastic is under pressure inside of the mold, it is not compressed by the mold. By using foamable plastic, gas is deliberately entrained in the plastic. Because of the fundamental difference between injection molding and compression molding, the gas is not driven out of the injection molded lid; the gas is retained inside of the cured plastic of the injection molded lid.

One of ordinary skill in the art would not read Hauffe to teach compressed plastic, capable of making a lid strong enough to withstand at least eight thousand pounds.

Respectfully submitted,

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